

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed July 28, 2010. In this response, claims 6, 10, 14, 20, 32, and 36 have been amended and no claims have been cancelled or added. Accordingly, claims 1-40 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were allowed; claims 14-19, 20-23, and 32-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; claims 32-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112; claims 6-10, 20-22, 24-27, 29, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent Publishing No. 2004/0143852 to Meyers ("Meyers"); claims 11-12 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Meyers in view of the Quake III manual ("Quake"); claims 13, 23, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Meyers in view of Hoefelmeyer et al. ("Hoefelmeyer"); and claims 32-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Meyers.

As an initial matter, the applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-5. Claims 6, 10, 20, 32, and 36 have been amended consistently with the Examiner's remarks regarding claims 1-5. As a result, the applicants believe the pending claims are patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed by the Examiner with reference to claims 1-5.

In response to the Section 101 rejection of claims 14-19, 20-23, and 32-40, the applicants have amended these claims to include a feature "wherein the computer readable medium does not consist of a propagated signal" Support for this amendment can be found throughout the instant specification, including paragraphs [0019]-[0034]. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the Section 101 rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 32-40 were rejected under Section 112 for allegedly being indefinite. In particular, it was alleged that the applicants have failed to disclose critical aspects of the system hardware and software that actually make possible the

claimed screen displays. Independent claims 32 and 36 have been amended to specify that the computer-readable medium is *coupled* to the screen display. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in Figures 1 and 2 and the description of these figures in paragraphs [0019]-[0034]. For example, Figure 2 is a block diagram that illustrates the functional components of the gaming system and depicts the screen display 150 coupled to the game console 102. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection of claims 32-40 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 6-10, 20-22, 24-27, 29, and 31 were rejected over Meyers under Section 102; claims 11-12 and 28 were rejected over Meyers in view of Quake; claims 13, 23, and 30 were rejected over Meyers and Hoefelmeyer; and claims 32-40 were rejected over Meyers under Section 103. Independent claims 6, 10, 20, 32, and 36 have been amended. Each of these independent claims now specifies that the first player enables gate crashing in the game, which, as the Examiner agreed, is not disclosed by the cited references. Independent claim 24 was rejected over Meyers, but it already includes a feature that a first player enables control of a game to be transitioned from a program routine to a remote player. Accordingly, claim 24 was not amended along with the other independent claims. As the Examiner recognized in the Office Action, the cited references fail to disclose a feature in which a first player enables gate crashing in a game. As a result, for at least this reason, claims 6-13 and 20-40 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are in condition for allowance. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268014US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted

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